

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Originally filed claims 1-7 have been amended. New claims 8-20 have been added, claims 8 and 20 being independent.

The Official Action objected to and rejected the originally filed claims under §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

The originally filed claims have been amended so as to overcome these formal matters. Withdrawal of the claim objections and §112 rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected as anticipated by EVANS 5,042,242.

The original claims, as amended, and the new claims, are believed to patentably recite the present invention.

The structure of the present invention provides a flexible cutting group for attachment to bush-cutters. In contrast, EVANS concerns a device being provided with chains for attachment near the cutting blades of a mower. These are significantly different devices as well as significantly different applications.

The EVANS device addresses the special application where the device is attached to the shaft driving a flat mower blade.

Reference is made to EVANS Figure 1 which shows the rotating shaft 3 mounting both the mower blade 7 and the device bracket 13. Figure 3 shows that the device bracket 13 has a center bolt hole 16.

As the EVANS patent discloses, this device is structured to impede the accumulation of grass cut by the mower, where the grass would otherwise accumulate in the space between the top of the blade 7 and the bottom of the mower housing 1. The links 12 of the chains are sized and structured for impeding the accumulation of cut grass. The links are not sized and structured for cutting grass or brush.

Consider first amended independent claim 1. The anchor plate is recited as having an overall planar shape. Fastening plate 13 of EVANS does not have an overall planar shape, as clearly illustrated. Also note that plate 14 does not have a bolt hole size for accepting a bolt for fastening the anchor plate to a rotating motorized group of a bush-cutter.

Accordingly, claim 1 is believed patentable.

Next consider new independent claim 8. See that claim 8 recites an anchor plate being substantially planar. This does not read on EVANS. Accordingly, this claim is also believed patentable.

See claim 11 specifically reciting the chains being structured to carry out cutting and shredding of grasses and bushes. EVANS does not make this disclosure.

See new claim 12 reciting the plate being of a circular center section with plural opposed arms extending from the circular center section. Plate 13 of EVANS does not meet this recitation.

See new claims 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19. These recitations are also believed to be patentable over EVANS.

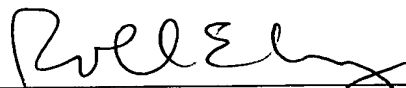
Lastly, see claim 20 corresponding generally to claim 8 but using the "consisting essentially of" language. This claim is believed patentable for the reasons discussed above.

In view of the above, applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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REL/mjr
November 15, 2004